



C.M. GUERRERO / Miami Herald Staff

ANTICIPATING DECISION: Bosch's daughter Myriam, left, and wife Adriana on Thursday.

U.S. considers parole for Bosch

31 countries have refused to accept anti-Castro militant

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By **MIKE McQUEEN** and **DAVID HANCOCK**
Herald Staff Writers

The Justice Department said Thursday it may decide within 30 days to free militant anti-Castro activist Orlando Bosch from prison.

"We are now considering whether to grant immigration parole to Dr. Bosch and under what conditions," Assistant Attorney General Steven Valentine told stunned spectators at a federal courtroom in Miami.

The reason, Valentine said, is that the government

may have no choice. Thirty-one countries on six continents have told the U.S. State Department they wouldn't accept Bosch.

The government said it is still working on the details of Bosch's possible parole. It is likely that Bosch, 63, would have to report weekly or monthly, remain within the United States and probably would be released to the custody of his family in Miami, said George Yoss, a Bosch attorney.

There also is an outside chance the government may

find a foreign country to deport Bosch to, but Yoss said the State Department's inability to find any volunteer nations for the past two years makes that unlikely.

U.S. District Judge William Hoeverler told lawyers he wanted a progress report at another hearing, which he scheduled for July 10. Bosch didn't appear at Thursday's hearing before Hoeverler.

Bosch has been held at the Metropolitan Correc-

PLEASE SEE **BOSCH**, 10A

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BOSCH, FROM 1A

tional Center in South Dade since Feb. 16, 1988. That's when he flew to Miami from Venezuela, where he had spent 11 years in jails although courts three times acquitted him of masterminding the bombing of a Cuban jetliner in 1976. All 73 aboard the jetliner died.

Bosch's family was hesitant but happy at Thursday's news. In May of last year, the Immigration and Naturalization Service appeared ready to free Bosch, but the Justice Department took control of the case and said Bosch was a risk because of his record as a terrorist.

Bosch's wife, Adriana, said Thursday: "It's a positive sign, but I wish I didn't have to wait so long."

Daughter Myriam, 32, told reporters she was worried that the government could change its mind and deport her father: "It's good news because it's 30 days, but in 30 days they could deport him."

Pedro Roig, a member of the board of directors of the Cuban American National Foundation said: "I'm stunned and glad. The big news is that Dr. Bosch will be out of prison."

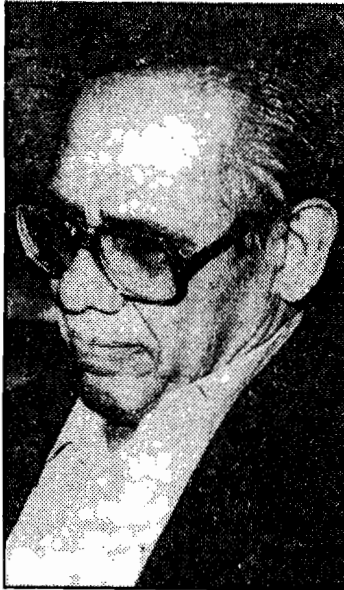
Valentine, the Justice Department lawyer, did not identify in court the 31 countries that the State Department had contacted. Details of the negotiations were being kept secret, he said, because "this case is highly sensitive. Our relations with these countries are sensitive."

Returning Bosch to Venezuela is not an option because his life would be in danger there, Yoss said.

Bosch attorney Hank Adorno told Hoeveler that his client doesn't pose a security risk. "Mr. Bosch has family, friends and relatives here who can vouch for him," Adorno said.

Further, he said, four security firms have promised to help provide a 24-hour watch for Bosch.

The Justice Department has opposed Bosch's release in the past because the FBI considers him an unreformed terrorist. Bosch was jailed in the United States from 1970-74 after being convicted of firing a recoilless rifle at a Polish freighter in the Port of Miami. He fled the country in 1974, a violation of his parole, and returned to the



PAROLE POSSIBLE:
Orlando Bosch.

United States illegally in 1988.

Thursday's hearing was prompted by Hoeveler, who had asked for an update on the case. Last November, the judge upheld the government's right to deport Bosch, calling him a "former hero of Cuban resistance" whose "efforts became sullied by his extremes."

Hoeveler said Thursday he was concerned that nothing had happened in the seven months since his order.

Bosch decided last November to drop his legal battle against deportation, which could have dragged on for several years through appeals. By dropping his appeal, Bosch put the pressure on the government to find a country to accept him, a difficult mission.

Leaders in the Cuban community hail Bosch for his unwavering struggles against the Castro regime.

"He is a man who remained true to his principles. We are in the presence of a man who was a great doctor, who could have been a rich man, and he sacrificed everything for his country," said Miguel Angel Tudela Minot, head of the human rights commission of the Cuban Municipalities in Exile organization.

"He has been a symbol of struggle against 31 years of tyranny."



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ALL SMILES: Adriana Bosch, wife of activist Orlando Bosch, leaves the federal courthouse in Miami after yesterday's announcement.